

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052715
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-01 VO-05 CA-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS/JF
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
C:IWOLF
EUR/EE:AMBASSADOR BYRNE
EUR/P:FSEIDNER

-----081718 020614Z /20

R 012140Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CZ

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS

REF: PRAGUE 0515

1. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE VISA TURNDOWN OF
NBC'S COLITT AND DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR BYRNE, THE
DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED THE VISA ISSUED TO CZECH TV JOURNAL-
IST OLDRICH VEJVODA SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN.

2. WE HAVE NOT BEEN WILLING TO TAKE SUCH A STEP IN THE
RECENT PAST. WE DO NOT REGARD SUCH A STEP AS A PRECEDENT
FOR THE FUTURE BUT AS A ONE-TIME RETALIATORY ACTION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF MAKING AN EXPLICIT IMPRESSION ON THE CZECHOSLO-
VAK GOVERNMENT. WE WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEY
CANNOT ASSUME THAT WE ARE INDIFFERENT TO THEIR REFUSAL OF
VISAS TO US JOURNALISTS.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO VEJVODA'S QUESTION AS TO WHY HIS VISA
IS BEING WITHDRAWN, EMBASSY SHOULD REPLY THAT IT IS UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE VISA TURNDOWN OF

COLITT. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.

4. WE WILL BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH NBC TO INFORM THEM
OF THE ACTION WE ARE TAKING. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO
INFORM COLITT AFTER VEJVODA'S VISA HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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